

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182976 TOSEC 080296

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO, BONN FROM
TOKYO AUG 01:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10643

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E.O. 11652\$ GDS

TAGS: EAID, US, EG, JA

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY AID TO EGYPT

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS SECRETARY

REF: A) STATE 181056 B) STATE 180500 C) STATE 179564

D) TOKYO 10476 E) STATE 162867

SUMMARY EMBOFFS URGED FONOFF REPS THAT GOJ TAKE TIMELY DECISION TO
ENABLE PM MIKI DURING WASHINGTON VISIT TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENT OF
100 MILLION DOLLARS JAPANESE NON-PROJECT
AID IN CY 75. FONOFF REPS SAID
FONOFF DOING BEST BUT QUESTION STILL UNDER DISCUSSION AT MINISTERIAL
LEVEL BETWEEN FONOFF AND FIANCE MINISTRY. FONOFF ANTICIPATES
DESION ONE WAY OR OTHER WILL BE TAKEN NEXTU DAY OR TWO. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBASSY VERY MUCH APPRECIATES PROMPT RESPONSES TO REF D

AND CITATIONS IN RESPONSES TO DEPT'S EARLIER EXDIS CABLES.

2. ON AUGUST 1, DRAWING ON REF A, EMBASSY URGED DEMARCHE TO FONOFF REPS (ISHII, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU, AND SEZAKI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FIRST ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION) THAT GOJ MAKE DECISION PRIOR TO MIKI-FORD MEETING AUGUST 5 TO ENABLE MIKI TO CONFIRM WHEN IN WASHINGTON THAT JAPAN WILL CONTRIBUTE 100 MILLION DOLLARS IN NON-PROJECT AID TO EGYPT DURING CY 75. OTHER POINTS CONTAINED REF A WERE ALSO STRESSED. ADDITIONALLY, EMBOFFS REVIEWED WITH FONOFF REPS JULY 10 IBRD MEETING REPORTED REF E TO ENSURE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF POINTS MADE THEN. FINALLY, EMBOFFS CONVEYED INFO CONTAINED REF C IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER FONOFF QUESTIONS, FOR WHICH FONOFF REPS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION, ISHII RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: FONOFF HAS BEEN DOING BEST AND IS CONTINUING EFFORTS SO THAT PM MIKI WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE FIRM COMMITMENT ON OCCASION OF WASHINGTON VISIT. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FONOFF AND FINANCE MINISTRY (MOF) ON THIS QUESTION HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED AND WILL CONTINUE AT MIYAZAWA-OHIRA (IE MINISTERIAL) LEVEL. IN A WORD, TIMING IS VERY VERY BAD FOR GOJ IN THAT GOJ REVENUES ARE DOWN AND BUDGET DEFICIT INCREASING AS RESULT OF PRESENT RECESSION, AND THREE REVENUE BILLS FAILED TO PASS RECENT DIET. FACT THAT PROMPT AND FAVORABLE GOJ DECISION WOULD ENCOURAGE EUROPEAN DONORS TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY. UNFORTUNATELY, MOF IS VERY INTERESTED IN GERMAN RESPONSE TO USG APPEAL FOR AID, FEELING THAT FRG'S INTERESTS IN EGYPT ARE AT LEAST AS GREAT AS THOSE OF JAPAN AND THEREFORE WISHING TO SEE GERMANY MOVE FIRST. INFO CONVEYED BY EMBOFFS RE FRENCH, UN, AND OTHER SMALL EUROPEAN DONORS IS VALUABLE AND WILL BE HELPFUL TO FONOFF IN PERSUADING MOF. IN ORDER TO HAVE DECISION IN TIME FOR MIKI VISIT, SAID ISHII, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO COME TO THIS DECISION WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO. ISHII UNDERTOOK TO INFORM EMBASSY WHEN DECISION MADE.

4. RE TERMSGN THOSE QUOTED REF A (E.E. 3.5-25-7) WERE THOSE ORIGINALLY OFFERED EGYPTIANS IN FEBRUARY 1974. SEZAKI SAID TERMS OF CY 75 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE NO BETTER AND POSSIBLY NOT AS GOOD. SEZAKI ALSO SAID THAT SINCE EARLIER REQUEST BY GOE OFFICIAL TO CONFIDENTIAL

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VISITING GOJ TRANSPORTATION VICE MINISTER ON OCCASION OF SUEZ CANAL REOPENING THAT JAPAN PROVIDE 200 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID, GOE AND GOJ HAVE NOT DISCUSSED QUESTION FURTHER. FINALLY SEZAKI CONFIRMED IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY THAT FONOFF HAS NO OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS TO WHICH IT AWAITS ANSWERS FROM USG. EMBOFF'S ASSURED HIM USG REMAINED WILLING TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL NECESSARY INFO IN RESPONSE TO GOJ REQUESTS. SHOESMITH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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